

ance, and minute accounts of the affairs of the colony, were regularly sent to the Lord Proprietary in England, there is reason to expect that some of these may be recovered. In particular, we are reluctant to abandon all hope of the recovery of the "two chests marked 'Calvert Papers,'" formerly in the custody of the British Museum, but now missing.

While scrupulous fidelity has been observed in reproducing the original text, it has not been thought advisable to reprint each book as it stands. Many of the volumes, especially the earlier, are miscellaneous receptacles of records of every kind; Acts and Proceedings of Assembly being mixed up with Orders and Proceedings in Council, warrants, administrators' accounts, petitions, appeals, grants, &c., &c. It was clearly best to adopt such an arrangement as would bring order into this chaos, and render consultation of the records easy. The plan chosen has been to take up first the Acts and Proceedings of Assembly, as a nearly continuous thread running through the whole, and of these to make this first volume, which begins with the earliest extant record of an Assembly, 1637/8, and comes down to the session of 1664. If it be the pleasure of the Legislature to continue the publication, the Proprietary Records, or the Council Proceedings can be next taken up, then Judicial Records, &c., each set being arranged in order of time, and the whole forming a digested body of our colonial archives, easy of reference, and in the best form for study.

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W. H. B.